

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00527 101535Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IGA-02 CU-02 L-03 SP-02 INR-07
/027 W

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P 101106Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6699

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: SEDU, EAID, MV
SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO MALDIVES EDUCATION

1. IT HAS BECOME APPARENT IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOM MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ABDUL SATTAR, THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS GOM FACES IN THE UPGRADING OF ITS SECONDARY SCHOOL SYSTEM IS THE AVAILABILITY OF QUALIFIED TEACHERS WHO SPEAK ENGLISH. EDUCATION IN MALDIVES IS GEARED TO PASSING BRITISH "O" LEVEL EXAMINATIONS. ACCORDING TO SATTAR, THE GOM HAS NINETY FOREIGN TEACHERS CURRENTLY ON CONTRACT WHO ARE PAID THEIR SALARIES IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND WHOSE LOCAL EXPENSES AND HOUSING ARE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GOM ON ITS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, THE ONE RECURRENT THEME WE ENCOUNTER IS THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN ABOUT THE FINANCIAL DRAIN TO OBTAIN FOREIGN TEACHERS UNTIL MALDIVIANS CAN MEET THE DEMAND FOR TEACHERS THEMSELVES.

2. SATTAR, IN A LETTER TO AMBASSADOR, HAS ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON POSSIBILITY OF US ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING QUALIFIED SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND FOR NAMES OF PRIVATE FUNDS OR VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS IN US THAT GOM
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PAGE 02 COLOMB 00527 101535Z

MIGHT CONTACT FOR POSSIBLE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GOM EDUCATIONAL FUND. BEFORE FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH SATTAR, WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S VIEWS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING TEACHERS THROUGH ACTION OR SOME VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AS WELL AS THE NAMES OF ORGANIZATIONS IN US THAT GOM COULD CONTACT DIRECTLY FOR ASSISTANCE. FOR THE GOM, ANY ASSISTANCE WE COULD PROVIDE TO

ALLEVIATE THE TEACHER SITUATION WOULD BE HIGHLY
PRODUCTIVE AND MUCH APPRECIATED PROGRAM.

3. SATTAR WILL REMAIN IN COLOMBO FOR ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE
RETURNING TO MALE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A RESPONSE
BY FEBRUARY 16TH ON POSSIBILITY OF US PROVIDING TEACHERS
AT NO FOREIGN EXCHANGE COST TO GOM. IF RESPONSE IS
FAVORABLE, PLEASE ADVISE WHAT ORGANIZATIONS, EITHER US
GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE, WOULD BEST BE SUITED TO MEET
GOM REQUIREMENTS AND ESTIMATE OF TIME IT MIGHT TAKE TO
ACTIVATE PROGRAM.
REED

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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